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18 October 1954

The Honorable Philip Young  
Chairman  
Civil Service Commission  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Young:

I am deeply concerned by the recent public release of the security statistics of the Central Intelligence Agency which were furnished to the Civil Service Commission in conformity with Executive Order No. 10450.

This Agency has extremely sensitive liaison arrangements with various foreign government intelligence services. These arrangements are predicated upon mutual trust and confidence and the integrity of the intelligence officers concerned. The publication of security statistics tends to raise a question in the minds of those cooperating services as to the reliability and integrity of our personnel and, in general, casts reflection upon this Agency. Any question of this nature tends to impair these relationships and dry up highly productive sources of information.

It is my responsibility under the National Security Act of 1947 to protect the methods of intelligence and sources of information and to this end I have effected a rigid security program for the elimination of security risks in any form. I deem this exercise of responsibility to be a highly classified internal matter and not one for public release and consequent knowledge to a number of persons and foreign governments who do not have a need to know.

It has been clearly established that one of the targets of the Soviet intelligence service, as directed against the American intelligence system, is the identification of personnel engaged in intelligence activities and the possibility of exploiting any of their moral or other weaknesses or vulnerabilities. The publication of statistics in this regard improves the chances of identifying those persons terminated as security risks and the possibilities for ex-

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exploitation, particularly of their knowledge of this Agency's activities in which they were previously engaged.

Within this Agency the determination of security risks and effecting their separation is handled only by those personnel who have an absolute need to know. The remaining personnel are unwitting of such problems and particularly of the statistical results thereof. The public release of such figures has an adverse effect upon the morale of other employees and causes questions and speculation where none should exist. In addition, the recruitment of personnel is on a highly selective basis in view of the serious responsibilities our employees must assume, possible risks they may be required to take in the performance of their duties, and the necessary interdependence of employees upon each other in sensitive intelligence activities. The public release of security statistics again may have an adverse effect upon our recruitment efforts and raise questions in the minds of prospective applicants as to the desirability of becoming employees of this Agency.

It is my desire to cooperate fully in the implementation of Executive Order No. 10450. However, for the reasons which I have indicated I feel that it is necessary to classify as "secret" the statistics that the Central Intelligence Agency furnishes to the Civil Service Commission. It is requested that any further dissemination be on a strict need-to-know basis and that such statistics not be made public under any circumstances.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

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